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**NEWS RELEASE**

# Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES \$6.48 MILLION IN GRANITE STATE CONSERVATION EFFORTS INCLUDED IN SENATE INTERIOR BILL**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations bill, approved by the Senate Appropriations Committee this afternoon, includes \$6.48 million for six conservation initiatives in New Hampshire. Through his position as a member of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior, Senator Gregg was able to include the funding for these important conservation initiatives in the measure. The bill is now ready for consideration by the entire Senate later this year.

The projects include: *\$2.53 million* for the Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands to purchase a conservation easement on nearly 10,000 acres of woodland; *\$1.2 million* for land protection on the Lamprey River for critical land acquisition; *\$1 million* for the Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest for continued research and infrastructure improvements; *\$1 million* for Moose Mountain to protect 4,200 acres in Strafford County; *\$500,000* for the Northern Forest Partnership Program to implement a community-generated, small grants program; and *\$250,000* for the Northern Forest Heritage Canoe Trail for further development of the trail and education initiatives. The Moose Mountain and Pillsbury-Sunapee projects were funded through the Forest Legacy program, which received an increase in funding to \$84.7 million nationwide. Earlier this year, Senator Gregg called on the Chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee to continue to increase funding for this important land conservation program.

Senator Gregg stated, "The federal funding approved today by the Interior Subcommittee is the result of work done by community-based organizations who design these conservation projects and pour countless hours into making them a reality. The variety of the initiatives, ranging from preservation of scenic rivers for recreation and wildlife to the peaks of some of New Hampshire's most scenic mountains, speak to the importance of relying on local leaders to arrange partnerships with private landowners. With the cooperation of environmental organizations and property owners, this federal funding will ensure that some of New Hampshire's most scenic environments remain that way for generations to come."

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Jane Difley, President of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, stated, "Once again Senator Gregg has demonstrated his extraordinary commitment to conservation in New Hampshire by securing much needed funding for several key projects. We're extremely pleased that he was able to find funding for the Pillsbury-Sunapee Forest Legacy Project, which, at nearly 10,000

acres, represents one of southern New Hampshire's largest land conservation initiatives in history. The Moose Mountain Forest Legacy Project will help protect one of the largest unbroken forest areas in Strafford County. And the \$1.2 million in funding for land conservation along the Lamprey River will go a long way to help protect farmland and important wildlife habitat in the rapidly growing seacoast region. Year-in, year-out we look to Senator Gregg to find a way, even in tight fiscal times, to help make these projects happen. We greatly appreciate his leadership."

Stephen Blackmer, President of the Northern Forest Center, stated, "The Northern Forest Partnerships Program is exactly what is needed now for northern New Hampshire and across the Northern Forest region. We are delighted by Senator Gregg's effort to bring support to innovative, community-generated projects that address heritage, economic, and conservation needs in New Hampshire and across the region. We are grateful for Senator Gregg's commitment to the people and communities of the Northern Forest as well as for his longstanding leadership in land conservation."

Judith Spang, Chair of the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, stated, "Senator Gregg has supported the protection of the Lamprey River since he was Governor of New Hampshire, escorting it through the process of becoming a National Wild and Scenic River and securing federal funds for safeguarding its unique natural attributes. With this part of the State being one of the fastest growing areas in the country, purchase of conservation easements from willing landowners has become virtually the only way to make sure there will be adequate wildlife habitat left for the species reliant upon the Lamprey. Other important benefits have been preservation of farm land to support agriculture in the watershed, protection of water quality for the towns that remove drinking water from the river, and of the Great Bay, of which the Lamprey is the largest tributary. This \$1.2 million appropriation will enable the Lamprey River Advisory Committee to continue to partner with landowners, towns and other conservation groups to make sure the Lamprey River remains both a valuable wildlife habitat and an asset for its communities."

See the attached sheet for detailed information on the six projects.

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*Fiscal Year 2004 Interior Appropriations Bill*  
Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), Member, Interior Appropriations subcommittee

**\$2.53 million – Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands Project** – This award will purchase a conservation easement to protect nearly 10,000 acres of woodlands reaching from Mount Monadnock to Mount Sunapee, with stretches abutting both Pillsbury and Sunapee State Parks. The Pillsbury-Sunapee Highlands agreement has helped spur other landowners in the area to commit to protecting an additional 2,500 acres, either through outright land donations or easements. Combined with land already protected in the State Parks, the entire Pillsbury-Sunapee forest area covers 25,000 acres that remain unbroken by development - a critical feature for wildlife habitats. While the landowner will continue to own the land and harvest timber, the easement will prevent development and require that it remain open for public recreation, including hunting, fishing, hiking and snowmobiling.

**\$1.2 million – Lamprey Wild and Scenic River** – The National Park Service currently administers 34 segments and more than 2,600 miles of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The \$1.2 million award will provide for land acquisition along this federally-designated Wild & Scenic River. The Lamprey, running through portions of Durham, Lee and Epping, received this designation based on the comprehensive local-State-Federal partnership management approach currently in place which entails no land ownership or physical presence by the National Park Service. The Lamprey River Advisory Committee is identifying significant conservation easement opportunities on farm and forestlands within the rapidly developing river corridor and throughout the watershed. Senator Gregg has been able to secure \$1.6 million for the Lamprey in FY01-03.

**\$1 million – Moose Mountain** – The Moose Mountain project will protect 4,200 acres in several communities in Strafford County. The Moose Mountain/Beaver Brook Forest straddles Alton, Brookfield, Middleton, and New Durham. Funding will support conservation easements on two tracts and will remain under private ownership, with permanent easements that prevent development and maintain public recreation areas. The project is the result of a partnership between Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, and the NH Fish and Game Department.

**\$1 million – Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest** – \$1 million for infrastructure improvements, education and the further development of an Ecosystem Research Co-op at the 7,800 acre research area in the White Mountain National Forest. Overseen by the Northeastern Ecosystem Research Cooperative (NERC), Hubbard Brook has been one of the most comprehensive forest research sites in North America since its establishment in 1955 due to the wide range of ecosystems incorporated within the forest. This is done through a collaboration of existing research sites throughout the northeast to construct regional databases and increase interaction among scientists. Senator Gregg was previously able to secure \$2 million for Hubbard Brook in both the FY 02-03 Interior Appropriations bills.

**\$500,000 – Northern Forest Partnership Program** – These funds will help implement a small grants program to support innovative, community-generated projects that address economic, community and conservation needs in New Hampshire, and across the four state Northern Forest region. The program, which will be administered through the Northern Forest Center in Concord, will support voluntary partnerships and leverage resources to improve social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being.

**\$250,000 – Northern Forest Heritage Canoe Trail** – The development of the Trail will not only improve access to rivers and encourage canoe recreation in northern New Hampshire, but will also increase awareness of the need to protect our environmentally sensitive historical landmarks. The trail is a 740 mile canoe trail stretching from the Adirondacks of upstate New York to northern Maine. These funds will help ensure that the entire length of the trail is passable by canoe with special attention paid to historic landmarks or portages and securing the availability of overnight accommodations for the duration of the trail. The NFCT is aiming to create an educational resource for trail visitors and local residents as well as create a system for managing the upkeep of the trail. In the Fiscal Year 2003 and 2002 Interior Appropriations measures, Senator Gregg was able to include a total of \$500,00 for the Canoe Trail.

